

The Brattleboro Daily Reformer

VOL. 4. NO. 29.

BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT, MONDAY EVENING, APRIL 3, 1916.

TWO CENTS.

ENCOUNTER VILLA'S MEN

**Sounds of Firing Heard, But
No Report Has Been Made
to Headquarters**

VILLA ALSO SAID TO HAVE ESCAPED NET

Funston Has Received Messages Indicating That the Co-operation of the Carranza Troops in Pursuit of Bandits Has Been Active.

CAMP OF GEN. J. J. PERSHING, AT THE FRONT, April 2, by aeroplane to Colonia Dublan and by radio to Columbus, N. M., April 3.—American aviators encountered a fleeing force of Villa men near (deleted) early today, and sounds of firing have been heard from that direction, but no report has been made to headquarters as to the result.

The mountains of Guerrero are being combed thoroughly for Villa by the American forces, but nothing has been learned as to his whereabouts other than that captured bandits said he was being carried farther into the mountains on his jolting coach.

General Pershing announced today that troops of the infantry are to be used for mountain climbing, co-operating with cavalrymen, who have borne the brunt of a five-day pursuit of Villa. The troops were close behind Villa yesterday, entering the village of (deleted) shortly after he had fled from it.

It was suspected that he might be hidden in one of his huts and every precaution was taken to effect the capture. Two squadrons of cavalry entered the village from opposite sides simultaneously. There have been a number of minor skirmishes in the vicinity of the village, two scouts reporting today that they encountered two Villa men on its outskirts yesterday. They fought for five minutes without casualties.

American air scouts are now flying over the entire Villa territory and are carrying despatches from the front to the field base and field headquarters.

SAN ANTONIO, April 3.—Lieut. John E. Mort, who was tried by court martial on charges of leading a detachment of soldiers into Mexico to recover two American soldiers detained by Mexicans, has been found guilty and sentenced to be repatriated. This announcement was made by Major General Funston today.

General Funston said that Lieut. Mort, who has been held at Mercedes, Texas, has been ordered released at once and returned to duty. He will be transferred to the second field artillery now in the Philippines. The point where Lieut. Mort led an American detachment into Mexico was near Brownsville, Texas. The incident occurred several weeks ago. The two American soldiers had been lured across the Rio Grande by Mexican soldiers.

General Funston has received messages today bearing on activities of the Carranza troops, but these were not made public. It was indicated at headquarters, however, that their cooperation in the pursuit of Villa has been notably active.

EL PASO, Texas, April 3.—Almost within the grasp of the American cavalry after the battle of Guerrero, Francisco Villa was reported today to have slipped the net closing about him and to have covered the trail of his flight.

EL PASO, Texas, April 3.—Reports

First Baptist Church

Monday, 7 p. m.—Boy Scouts meeting.

Wednesday, 3 p. m.—Special Boy Scouts trip to Fort Dummer mill.

In Odd Fellows Temple

ing of Wantastiquet lodge. This meeting Monday night at 7:30.—Regular meeting will be held in the banquet hall of the new temple.

**Brooks House Sanitary
Barber Shop**

5 EXPERT WORKMEN 5

**The Prince of Bootblacks
Employed Here**

J. H. ALLEN PROP.

from Mexican sources in the interior, received here today, asserted that Francisco Villa was headed toward Chihuahua City and that his emissaries were attempting to influence the garrison of the place from their allegiance to the de facto government.

Nothing was said in the report of Villa's alleged injuries, an omission which helped to confirm the opinion freely expressed on the border that the bandit's wounds were an invention on his part, reported with the intention of deceiving his pursuers.

LAREDO, Texas, April 3.—Military authorities at Nuevo Laredo, opposite here, declared today the reported defection of Col. Cano's forces in Chihuahua was untrue. They said the Chihuahua forces were loyal and were working indefatigably for the apprehension of Villa.

WASHINGTON, April 3.—Messages of a routine character only have reached the war department from the Mexican border since the official report of the rout of the main column of Villa's outlaws by Dorr's Cavalry and the information that Villa himself was said to be seriously wounded and in hiding.

Latest reports from the commanders of warships in Mexican waters say that no trace of Felix Diaz, reported to be in Mexico at the head of a new revolution, has been found.

The protocol with the Carranza government designed to cover all questions relating to the hunt for Villa is expected to be concluded during the week.

CREW ABANDONS JAPANESE STEAMER

**All the 299 Passengers Taken Off by a
British Warship and Safely Landed
at Hong Kong.**

HONGKONG, April 3.—Stranded in a storm off the Lema Islands, 20 miles south of Hongkong, the Japanese steamer Chiyo Maru, whose 229 passengers, mostly Americans, were rescued by a British warship, is now believed to have been abandoned by her crew.

Capt. Bent sent a message by wireless telegraph to the Chiyo Maru last night, announcing that he was leaving the ship. He said a heavy southeast sea was running and that his vessel was slipping on the rocks.

At dawn yesterday a wireless message was received from a torpedo boat destroyer saying that the position of the Japanese steamer was unchanged, that the vessel did not reply to signals and that it was presumed the crew had been landed on the Lema Islands, a group off the entrance to the Canton river.

An easterly gale is blowing and a high sea is running.

The Chiyo Maru left San Francisco March 2, bound for ports in Japan, the Philippines and China.

WORK ON NEW YORK SUBWAYS HELD UP

**About 10,000 Men Demand Eight Hours
and Increase in Wages — Others
Forced to Idleness.**

NEW YORK, April 3.—About 10,000 men, mostly unskilled laborers and timbermen employed on the city's new dual subway system, went on strike today, demanding an eight-hour day and an increase of from 15 to 25 per cent in wages. The strikers are employed by contractors.

According to Thomas E. O'Brien, president of the Subway Workers' union, the action of the members in quitting has tied up 80 per cent of the work on the new subway in Manhattan, Brooklyn and the Bronx. Union officials estimate that 3,000 rock drillers, blasters and tool sharpeners in addition to the organization on strike will be forced into idleness.

A SERIOUS FIRE IN NEW YORK CITY

**Two Five-Story Buildings Burned on
Beekman Street and Tenants Or-
dered Out of Sky-Scraper.**

NEW YORK, April 3.—A serious fire broke out in the downtown section of the city early this afternoon. At 2 o'clock it had destroyed two five-story buildings on Beekman street, occupied by paper concerns, and had spread to an old 15-story building at the corner of Nassau and Beekman streets, and threatened it with destruction. Three alarms were turned in. Shortly after 2 o'clock all tenants were ordered out of the 20-story sky-scraper known as the Nassau-Beekman building, and occupied by the New York Sun. The building was being at that time seriously menaced by the flames.

CHARGED WITH MURDER.

Man Who Killed Woman in New Bedford Deserter from Russian Army.

NEW BEDFORD, Mass., April 3.—A warrant charging him with murder of Mrs. Joseph Geffroth in a hotel here Saturday night was served today on Peter Smirnov, who described himself as a deserter from the Russian army. Smirnov now is in a hospital in a serious condition from wounds which he says were self-inflicted.

THREE GREAT AIRSHIP RAIDS

**In the First Two Attacks 59
Persons Were Killed and
166 Wounded**

AWFUL SLAUGHTER CONTINUES AT VERDUN

**Masses of Troops Hurlled Against the
Defenses at Vital Points, But the
French Troops Are Offering Tenacious
Resistance.**

Heaving masses of troops are still being hurled by the Germans against the defenses of Verdun, which are being tested to the limit at vital points.

The French are offering tenacious resistance and, according to Paris, have succeeded in pressing back the Crown Prince's forces between Vaux and Donaumont, where sledge hammer raids have badly dented the French ranks within the past few days.

Zeppelins were over eastern Scotland and northeastern and eastern counties of England from 9 last night to after 1 o'clock this morning in the third great raid by German air fleets in as many nights. Details as to the damage and casualties are lacking.

In Friday and Saturday night's raid 59 persons were killed and 166 wounded. Berlin's account of the Saturday and Sunday night raids declares that large iron works and industrial plants on the Tees and on the port establishment of Sunderland were hit, inflicting heavy damage and causing explosions to occur and fires to break out.

PARIS, April 3.—Fighting continued all night in the Verdun region east of the Meuse between Donaumont and Vaux. The issue turned, generally, in favor of the French who gained ground in the northern part of Caillotte woods, which was occupied by the Germans yesterday. West of the river a bombardment was carried on near Haumont without effect. The statement says that in yesterday's fighting the German's lengthened their front of attack to about two miles.

STRENUOUS BATTLE WITH MAD MUSKRAT

**Dr. Tracy and Dr. Pettie Forced to
Retreat Before Charge of In-
furiated Beast on Main Street.**

Dr. Ernest Tracy of the Brattleboro Retreat staff and Dr. A. L. Pettie had a strenuous battle with a muskrat on the lawn of the Hooker property at the corner of Main and High streets Saturday evening and Dr. Tracy came near being bitten by the rat.

The animal was seen by the two men as they were wending their way from the basketball game in the Armory to the Masonic temple. Dr. Tracy unhesitatingly picked up a rotten stick and hurled it at the animal and was promptly charged by the infuriated beast, the stick not going very near, but nevertheless irritating the animal to the point of charging his enemy.

Dr. Tracy aimed a kick at the animal approached within reasonable kicking distance, but his aim was poor and he slipped besides missing. There was a mad scramble by the two men, one to get up and the other to aid him to arise and they finally escaped, leaving the muskrat temporarily in command of the field. A few minutes later a man who was wearing heavy rubber boots demonstrated that his aim with his feet was better than that of the physician and he hoisted the animal so high that when it came down it was lifeless. A small boy was presented the prize.

MRS. ALBERT H. BIXBY.

**Washington Street Woman Had Lived
Here About 30 Years.**

Mrs. Lettie R. (Holt) Bixby, 53, wife of Albert H. Bixby of 67 Washington street, died in her home Saturday night just before midnight after an illness of several months.

Mrs. Bixby was born in Wilmington June 5, 1862, a daughter of Lovell S. and Philena (Crossier) Holt. She married Mr. Bixby Sept. 20, 1882. They made their home five years in Guilford and then moved to Brattleboro, where Mrs. Bixby had lived since. She was a member of Sedgwick Woman's Relief corps.

She leaves, besides her husband, one son, Harry A. Bixby of Brattleboro, and three brothers, Hosea A. Holt and Arthur Holt of Barre and Dr. C. Parker Holt of Cambridge, Mass. The funeral will be held tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at the house, Rev. Delmar E. Trout, pastor of the Universalist church, officiating. The burial will take place in Prospect Hill cemetery.

FACTS IN THE LIFE OF VILLA THE BANDIT.

1868—Born at Las Nievas, Durango, the son of a stable keeper named Arango.

1882—Embarked on a career of murder, for hire.

1885-1910—Cattle thief and outlaw in Northern Mexico.

1910—Joined Madero in the revolt against Diaz.

1913—Clashed with Gen. Huerta, whom Madero sent to the north to crush the rebellion of Orozco, and joined Carranza. Arrested by Huerta and sent to Mexico City; condemned to death by a military court; sentence commuted by Madero; escaped from the penitentiary at Mexico City and made his way to Texas; on the death of Madero crossed the border with eight men to make war on Huerta, the dictator.

1914—Was at the head of 35,500 men in Northern Mexico, and in control of its resources after taking its chief cities by storm; entered Mexico City with his troops, Carranza having retired to Vera Cruz, was forced to leave Mexico City for want of supplies, retiring to the north. Marched to the border to obtain supplies and found that Carranza had been recognized by the United States as head of the de facto government of Mexico.

1915—After meeting defeat in several engagements with Carranza troops, retired to the mountains of Chihuahua and resumed the practices of a bandit, with a price upon his head.

March 9, 1916 — Attacked the American town of Columbus, N. M.

HAS PROMISED PROMPT REPLY

**Germany to Make Statement
on Sinking of Vessels
Carrying Americans**

ADMIRALTY OFFICE TO MAKE INQUIRY

**It Is Believed That It Will Get Information
from Submarine Bases In-
stead of Waiting for Submarine Com-
manders to Report.**

WASHINGTON, April 3.—American Ambassador Gerard at Berlin cabled today that the German government had promised him a prompt reply to his inquiry regarding the attack on the British steamer Sussex and other vessels on which Americans were endangered. The Berlin foreign office, Ambassador Gerard stated, had referred his inquiry to the German admiralty. While no definite time was given by German officials within which a response would be made Mr. Gerard stated that he had assurance it would be forthcoming as soon as possible.

The American ambassador's despatch indicates that instead of waiting for the German submarine commanders to report the admiralty office would send out inquiries to the submarine bases.

NET RECEIPTS OF CONCERT \$153.39

**Dr. Holton of Red Cross Chapter Re-
ceives Substantial Check from My-
ron Kidder of New York.**

Myron Kidder of New York, manager, has just sent to Dr. Henry D. Holton of this town, chairman of the Vermont chapter, American Red Cross a check for \$153.39, the proceeds from the Kent Orpheus club benefit concert given here recently.

This money is to be applied "in furtherance of the work of the society upon both sides and on the several fronts in Europe in the spirit of true neutrality."

Dr. Holton sent to Mr. Kidder today a note of cordial appreciation for the substantial check.

The charge for the special train which brought the Orpheus club here from Springfield was more than was expected by the management, through a misunderstanding, and the delay in announcing the receipts was due to negotiations, which were not successful, looking to a reduction in that charge.

STEAMER PERTH SUNK.

**Six Members of the Crew Lost and
Eight Were Saved.**

LONDON, April 3.—The British steamer Perth has been sunk. Six members of the crew were lost and eight were landed. The Perth was unarmed. There are three British steamships Perth.

THE WEATHER

Fair Tonight—Tuesday Overcast—Moderate North Winds.

WASHINGTON, April 3.—The weather forecast: Fair tonight, Tuesday overcast. Moderate north winds.

GOES AHEAD OF RUTLAND

**Brattleboro Post Office Is
Second to Burlington
in Receipts**

POSTAL RECEIPTS FOR YEAR \$62,375

**Year's Record in Rutland \$61,998 —
Brattleboro Office Gains Nearly \$4,600
in Year—New Regular Carrier Ap-
pointed for Local Office.**

In the fiscal year which ended March 31 the Brattleboro postoffice forged ahead of the Rutland office in the total postal receipts, as shown by figures which became available today, and the Brattleboro office in this respect now stands second only to Burlington in the list of Vermont postoffices.

The total postal receipts at the Brattleboro office were \$62,374.93, while the postal receipts of the Rutland office were just under \$62,000, being approximately \$61,998. The gain at the Brattleboro office during the year was \$4,595.89, the total amount for the previous year being \$57,779.04.

On the first anniversary of his appointment as postmaster, Michael J. Moran received telegraphic notice that an additional regular carrier, for whose appointment he had been working for some months, had been authorized and Edward F. Lindsey went on the pay roll as the eighth regular carrier. He had been a substitute carrier nearly four years.

This month is to be the busiest on record for the office. Three separate and distinct counts are being kept for the postal department. This week every carrier is obliged to make a report of all mail delivered, not only by count but by weight as well, with all other details connected with city delivery service.

For the first 15 days of this month a count and record of the weights of all parcel post business must be kept and for the entire month all rural carriers must keep a count of all mail collected and delivered.

This additional work in the office delays the carriers in their work of delivering mail and makes them late in leaving the office on every delivery.

HOPES TO SECURE MACHINE GUN CREW

**Capt. Gibson Has Recruited Company I
to Maximum Peace Strength, and
Will Have Waiting List.**

Capt. E. W. Gibson of Company I, V. N. G., having recruited his company to its maximum peace strength, is now making up a waiting list of candidates and intends to secure for Brattleboro a machine gun crew if the state is fortunate enough to obtain one of these guns to add to its equipment of the National Guard.

It is intended to have one of these guns, if possible, and efforts are now being made to secure one of the government. A machine gun crew consists of 16 men and is a separate organization from the infantry companies. Should Capt. Gibson be successful in securing the assignment of this gun to Brattleboro this town would have not only one infantry company, but the regimental band and a machine gun crew, the band and the gun crew the only ones in the state attached to the National Guard.

ARRESTED ON LEAVING TRAIN.

**Mechanical Engineers Accused of
Theft of Blue Prints.**

PITTSBURGH, April 3.—Accused of stealing blue prints worth \$10,000 from the Scientific Materials company, C. Ernest Debrun and Frank Howarth were arrested yesterday as they alighted from a train. The men, mechanical engineers, formerly were employed by the company. The missing blue prints, the police say, were in a suit case carried by the two.

When the blue prints were missed last week Debrun and Howarth were traced to New York. There, according to the New York police they tried to sell the blue prints and failing attempted to organize a company. The New York police then telephoned the Pittsburgh police and the men left there Saturday night.

SPY'S CORRESPONDENCE.

**Papers of Man Who Planned to Destroy
Welland Canal to Be Published.**

WASHINGTON, April 3.—A quantity of correspondence belonging to Horst Von Der Goltz, the alleged German spy who has said he was the directing head of the plot to blow up the Welland canal, has been seized by Scotland Yard detectives and will be made public shortly by the department of justice. It is understood that the correspondence contained details of plans to blow up the Welland canal and of invasion of Canada from the United States. The letters are said to contain names of persons in this country hitherto unmentioned.

LESLIE SMITH SELLS LUMBER BUSINESS

**Purchasers Are Pellett & Skinner, Con-
tractors—Old Hunter & O'Neil
Shop on Flat Street.**

The contracting firm of Pellett & Skinner has bought the lumber business conducted 19 years by Leslie Smith on Flat street. Possession was given Saturday. It is the intention of the new owners to continue the business. Mr. Smith permanently retires and has no plans for the immediate future to announce.

This lumber business has been conducted over 40 years in the same location on Flat street and has been known to old residents as the Hunter & O'Neil mill.

Mr. Smith by strict attention to business and care in filling contracts has built up an enviable trade, and his successors, who have been engaged in the contracting business several years with much success, intend to carry on their new business with the same attention to detail that characterized its conduct by Mr. Smith.

FACTORY WRECKED BY EXPLOSION OF GAS

**Twenty-Five Men Injured in the Plant
of the Otis Elevator Company—
Five May Die.**

Buffalo, N. Y., April 3.—Twenty-five men were injured in an explosion at the plant of the Otis elevator company here today.

The roof of the building, which was of steel and concrete construction, was blown off and the interior was badly damaged. Over 100 men were at work in the plant when the explosion occurred. The cause of the explosion other than the fact that it came from a gas tank has not been ascertained. Of the injured, it was said that five were probably fatally hurt.

SEDGWICK POST RECEIVES \$50 GIFT

**Local Grand Army Organization Sur-
prised by Largest Individual
Donation in Its History.**

The members of Sedgwick post, G. A. R., were pleasantly surprised in their meeting Saturday afternoon to receive from George L. Dunham a letter enclosing a check for \$50 to be added to the treasury of the post. It was the largest individual gift the post has received. A rising vote of thanks was tendered the donor.

The post voted to renew the flags on all the graves of soldiers twice annually.

MRS. JOSEPHINE B. SIMONDS.

**Widow of Frederick W. Simonds Dies
in Cleveland, O.**

News was received here yesterday of the sudden death in Cleveland, O., of Mrs. Josephine (Bossut) Simonds, formerly of Brattleboro.

The body will arrive here tomorrow and the funeral will be held at the undertaking rooms of Bond & Son at 2 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, Rev. Delmar E. Trout, pastor of the Universalist church, officiating. The burial will take place in Prospect Hill cemetery beside the body of her husband.

Mrs. Simonds attended the Brattleboro high school and soon after the close of the war, in which her husband served three years, she and Mr. Simonds were married. They continued to live in Brattleboro until 1877, when they moved to Cleveland. Mr. Simonds died about 12 years ago.

Mrs. Simonds leaves one son, Walter Simonds, and one daughter, Mrs. Florence Jersey, both of Cleveland.

SHOT IN ARM WHILE HUNTING.

**Anthony Grigware Accidentally In-
jured on Stream in Shoreham.**

SHOREHAM, April 3.—Anthony Grigware, 50 years old, was accidentally shot in the right arm and right breast Saturday while hunting muskrats from a boat on Lemon Fair in company with his son, Anthony. The charge of No. 6 shot entered his right arm just above the wrist and came out at the elbow. A number of shot entered his breast. The fact that he wore a coat lined with sheepskin is believed to have saved his life as many of the shot were imbedded in the garment. It is not known how the gun was discharged.

The injured man was assisted out of the boat and to his home, nearly a mile away, by his son. Dr. C. W. Howard of this town and Drs. E. H. Martin and P. L. Dorey of Middlebury were summoned. Though the wound in the arm is serious it is expected that Mr. Grigware will recover.

PROGRESSIVE CONVENTION.

**Over 700 Delegates Are in Session at
Kansas City.**

KANSAS CITY, April 3.—The state convention of the Progressive party, composed of 727 delegates from the 14 counties of the state, is being held here today. The principal business will be the election of four delegates at large and 20 district delegates to the national convention of the party in Chicago.

All potatoes have eyes, and some have specs.

VOTE TO SELL TO A. B. CLAPP

**Resolution Names Price of
\$1,000 Cash for Hose
House Property**

NO OPPOSITION IN VILLAGE MEETING

**C. R. Crosby Introduced Resolution,
Which Protects Rights of Present Ten-
ant—Large Attendance of Voters—
Adjournment in Four Minutes.**

Predictions for a large attendance at the special village meeting in Festival hall Saturday evening came true in even greater measure than was anticipated, and another surprising feature of the meeting was that in spite of the large number of voters present not a single voice was raised in opposition to selling the No. 6 hose house property on South Main street to Arthur B. Clapp at his own figure. The meeting was over in four minutes. The offer of \$2,000 which the village commissioners had received through a third party from somebody whose name was not known to them, which offer was published last week, was not mentioned. Such unanimity of sentiment in a meeting so largely attended is remarkable, as usually in meetings where the sentiment is overwhelming on one side of a question a few vote the opposite way.

Practically all the seats were occupied and many stood in the rear of the hall. There had been communications and heard discussions on both sides of the question and had reason to think that a lively meeting might ensue, but apparently all went with the same purpose in view in case any effort was made to block the plan to sell the property to Mr. Clapp.

The warrant for the meeting was to see if the voters would vote to sell the No. 6 hose house property. No name of any possible purchaser was mentioned in the warrant, but through news stories and communications in The Reformer it was known that Mr. Clapp wanted the lot to add to the lot where the Young grocery store building stands, he having bought that lot and buildings thereon with the intention of erecting a fireproof building there for the office of the secretary of the Holstein-Friesian Association of America, now located in the American building. He was willing to pay a fair price for it, and the voters knew that there was a possibility of getting into a wrangle which might result in the removal of the office from town, which would be a great loss.

The town clock was striking eight, the hour at which the meeting was called, when Chairman S. A. Richmond of the board of village commissioners and Village Clerk W. H. Perry mounted the platform. Mr. Richmond called the meeting to order and Mr. Perry read the warrant. On motion of H. B. Chamberlain the meeting elected A. F. Schwenk moderator. Charles R. Crosby, principal owner of the American building, although the Holstein-Friesian office pays a rental of over \$3,500 a year, introduced the following resolution, which was read by the clerk:

"Resolved: That the village commissioners are hereby instructed to negotiate a sale of the hose house property, including land and building owned by the village, on South Main street to A. B. Clapp for the price of \$1,000 cash and that A. F. Schwenk be and hereby is constituted and appointed agent of the village to execute the proper deed of conveyance of said property. Any sale made should be subject to the rights of the present tenant of the property."

Mr. Crosby moved the adoption of the resolution, which was done by a unanimous vote.

The shout which went up when it was realized that nobody had voted against the resolution caused such a vibration in the hall that two of the tungsten lights went out.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned. The present tenant of the hose house property is the Vermont Auto Sales Co., Barney Mead manager. Last December Mr. Mead rented the property for a year at \$10 a month, consequently he has rights which the village is bound to respect. It is likely, however, that Mr. Mead and Mr. Clapp will make some mutually satisfactory arrangements.

BANISHED TO SIBERIA.

**Jewish Hostages and Others Expelled
From Galicia.**

NEW YORK, April 3.—The Russian government has decreed that Jewish hostages from Lemberg and other Galician cities who are now in Kiev, and those who have been expelled from Galicia by administrative order, must be sent to Siberia, according to information obtained by the American Jewish committee and made public yesterday. The decree of expulsion to Siberia is said to have been made in response to Jews' petitions for release from arrest and permission to return to their native country. Non-Jewish hostages, the statement says, may choose places of residence outside the sphere of military operations.